

Remapping our Fire-Adapted Ecosystem Restoration Management Area

This session will focus on mapping a management area with a desired condition of longleaf pine woodlands and wet pine savannas, interspersed with Carolina bays and depression ponds, pocosins, blackwater streams, and stable streambanks dominated by native vegetation. Longleaf pine, open forest canopies, frequent prescribed fire, scattered oaks, isolated wetlands, and abundant native wildflowers and native grasses are important components of this management area.

What natural resources and areas are important to capture in a restoration management area maintained with frequent prescribed fire? What public benefits and services does this type of management area provide? (short discussion, encourage people to capture on postcards and maps - 10 minutes, Bill Twomey and Robin Mackie, facilitators)

What are the challenges and opportunities? (general discussion, encourage discussion - 20 minutes, Alan Hepworth and Paul Churchill, facilitators)

What spatial tools do we have available to us? What else do we need to consider? (sharing of spatial information, discussion, and mapping exercise - 20 minutes, Robin Mackie and Jay Purnell, facilitators)

GIS Tools Available

- ✓ Outline and Map of Francis Marion National Forest w/ Management Areas (26) - How this management area was mapped in the 1996 Forest Plan;
- ✓ Map of the Wildland - Urban Interface (WUI);
- ✓ Prescribed Fire History - those areas that have been prescribed burned since 2005;
- ✓ Burn blocks;
- ✓ Ecological Classification - Potential and historic ecosystems based on topography, soils, and natural ecosystems/vegetation (2013);
- ✓ Existing and Restorable Longleaf - Results of longleaf assessment conducted by the USFS in conjunction w/SCTNC (2010); Forest dominated by longleaf pine or mixtures; late successional and old growth longleaf forests; Existing woodlands and savannas based on LiDAR;
- ✓ Habitat for Fire-Dependent At-Risk Species - includes fire-adapted botanical areas, high quality savannas, and habitats for 75 at risk plants (a subset of upland longleaf, wet pine savannas and woodlands, Carolina bays, and depression ponds), active and inactive red-cockaded woodpecker clusters, critical habitat for flatwoods salamander, habitat for Carolina gopher frog;
- ✓ Woodlands and savannas (based on degree of canopy opening from LiDAR).